C-Band Alliance

Who is the CBA?

The C-band Alliance was formed by the four satellite operators that provide the vast majority of C-band satellite services in the U.S.

This same group of satellite operators proposed to the FCC a breakthrough market-based proposal to clear portions of this C-band spectrum to support the introduction of 5G services in the U.S. Critically, this proposal also protects the valuable satellite-delivered services provided by C-band.

What is the mission of the CBA?

- The CBA is the organization that will facilitate safely and efficiently clearing and repurposing C-band spectrum, speeding U.S. leadership in 5G deployment and innovation.

- The CBA will engage in secondary market-based transactions to expand use of C-band in 18 to 36 months from an FCC order. This will position service providers to deliver 5G services to consumers throughout America, in cities and non-urban areas, unleashing meaningful growth for the U.S. economy.

- As it leads these efforts, the CBA will protect the quality and reliability of the extensive services provided by satellite operators in the C-band spectrum to U.S. broadcasters, media, and data companies.

Key Advocacy Positions

It Is Important for America to Lead in 5G

- 5G is about far more than faster downloads on mobile devices. According to a report by Deloitte, "countries that adopt 5G first are expected to experience disproportionate gains in macroeconomic impact compared to those that lag."
    - "Deloitte – 5G: The Chance to Lead for A Decade" (Deloitte Report)
- Currently America is lagging behind China and other countries in allocating spectrum for 5G.
    - "China 'has the edge' in the war for 5G and the US and Europe could fall behind" (CNBC)

Repurposing C-band "Mid-Band Spectrum" Is Essential To Assure That All Americans Get Access to 5G

The U.S. geography and population dispersion are unique, and thus spectrum requirements are complex.

High frequency mmWave spectrum will carry vast amounts of 5G data short distances in America's dense urban canyons. But trying to extend mmWave 5G across all of America, including rural areas, would be like trying to cut your grass with a pair of scissors – futile.

Wireless communication experts identify mid-band spectrum as the "sweet spot" between the broad coverage of low-band spectrum and the density of high-band spectrum that is required to serve the U.S. They maintain that expanding the use of C-band spectrum to wireless carriers will be essential to bringing 5G to <u>all</u> Americans.

Secondary Market Transactions Are the Only Way to Repurpose Mid-Band Spectrum in a Timely Manner

An FCC auction of mid-band spectrum could not take place until 2021-2022 or later. Litigation with current satellite operators could push that date much further into the future. By that time, the United States would be a small object in China's 5G rearview mirror.

By contrast, secondary market transactions can be completed very quickly with transparency and with regard for the balance of wireless industry competition. It is our intention to repurpose spectrum as fast as possible.

Current C-Band FSS Customers Must Continue to Be Served

Only the proposal of the C-band carriers begins with the question "How much spectrum do we need to retain to serve our customers and their consumers?" Every other proposal puts at risk C-band service to existing cable, broadcast and programmer customers and their more than 100 Million U.S. television households and radio listeners. C-band satellite operators are committed to ensuring that their customers, and thus U.S. consumers, continue to receive quality service with no disruptions. And the C-Band carriers will make their customers whole for the cost of the transition.

It is important that C-Band remain the high quality and reliable distribution method of choice for video providers. The amount of spectrum to be cleared and repurposed will be determined by (1) how much spectrum must be retained to continue serving all existing customers and their consumers, (2) the cost of clearing and (3) market demand for the spectrum.